

As you may know, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the state of California agreed several years ago to share the costs of constructing a 150 bed veterans home in Redding. Federal taxpayers have since provided over fifty million dollars of the total cost, which is the maximum level of federal support allowed under the law. California committed to pay the remaining cost of the facility and to fund its daily operation, but, unfortunately, its dire fiscal condition has repeatedly forced the state to postpone keeping its end of the cost-sharing deal. Most recently, I understand California Governor Jerry Brown proposed a state budget that did not include the necessary funds for the Redding home. If his budget is enacted, the opening of the nearly-finished home would once again be delayed.

I have heard from many Northern California veterans who are strongly concerned about the delays in the Redding home. I share these concerns and am especially alarmed that California's budget challenges could postpone the facility indefinitely. Last week I met with California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Peter Gravett and expressed my disappointment and concerns about the home's future. On the federal level, I believe it is critical that the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars invested into the Redding home do not go to waste. Accordingly, I have [asked](#) VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to inform me whether the Department has any authority to protect the interest of federal taxpayers and to clarify whether the VA expects California to open the home in a particular time period.

While I strongly support restoring fiscal responsibility in our nation, I also believe that it is important for California to honor its commitment to veterans. As the state reviews its budget proposal, I hope that it will identify funds going toward waste or ineffective programs and redirect those dollars to the Redding veterans home. Please know that I will continue to monitor this situation and do everything I can to ensure that taxpayer interests are protected and that the long-recognized needs of Northern California veterans are met.